



## Commissioner's Column

### New Spring Arrivals

By Douglas P. Gillespie

Spring is finally here! This is one of my favorite times of the year, with a barnful of new arrivals, new growth in our fields, bogs and orchards, and our neighbors and customers excited by all that Spring brings to the farm! Hopefully this optimism can carry on through the many challenges of the year ahead.

As this is the first opportunity since my appointment as Commissioner, I want to thank Governor Swift and Secretary Durand for their confidence, and I look forward to being a part of their team in support of Massachusetts agriculture.

I also want to especially thank all of the DFA staff for the warm welcome that I have received. These are folks who have really stepped up to face the adversities facing state government right now. They care about our industry, and take pride in their work. They have each assumed extra work to fill the voids left by budget cuts and early retirements, and I am extremely proud of them!

DFA has been looked upon as a model for our progressive "toolbox" approach to providing assistance to the agricultural community. We must continue to maintain these innovative approaches, while recognizing that our primary constituency—farmers of Massachusetts—is changing, just as state government is.

Our commodities are changing; for example dairy barns are being converted to horse boarding stables, wholesale growers are becoming retailers. Many farm families are farming part-time, supplementing their lifestyle with off-farm employment. DFA must change to meet this new face of Bay State agriculture as we head into our second 150 years!

I look forward to continuing to strengthen the team approach between DFA, farm organizations and commodity groups, land preservationists and environmentalists, and all the other constituents with whom we interface. Together we will be a strong force to reckon with as we move forward!

Thank you again for making the past month a very memorable one for my family and me!

### Gov. Swift Swears in Gillespie as New Ag Commissioner

Governor Jane Swift swore in Douglas P. Gillespie of Weston as state Commissioner of Food and Agriculture during "Agriculture Day at the State House" on April 3rd at the Grand Staircase. He was joined by his wife Denise and son Seth for the occasion.



A fourth-generation Massachusetts farmer, Gillespie comes to the Department of Food and Agriculture from his most recent position as Assistant Executive Director for the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation in Ashland, Mass. He has been with the Farm Bureau since 1990 and has also served as Director of Member Relations and Director of Government Relations.

Gillespie is in his fourth year on the Weston Board of Selectman; has been active on the State Commission for the Conservation of Soil, Water and Related Resources; has been a board member of the Weston Land Trust; and has been Vice Chairman of the Recycling and Solid Waste Advisory Committee for the Town of Weston.

Gillespie has also held positions in marketing, communications and publishing, here in Massachusetts and in the Midwest.

Gillespie's wife Denise is the daughter of several generations of central Texas ranchers. Doug, Denise and Seth live on Doug's family sheep farm in Weston. ♦

### DFA Celebrates 150 Years of Service

#### New Logo, "150 Faces of Mass. Agriculture" Project Introduced

One of the oldest state agencies in the nation is celebrating its 150th birthday. The Mass. Department of Food and Agriculture, established on April 21st, 1852 and then called the State Board of Agriculture, is marking the milestone by introducing a new logo and announcing the "150 Faces of Massachusetts Agriculture" project.



The Department has set a goal of highlighting 150 people who are served by the agency. The 150 "faces" will be selected over the course of the coming year and will be featured on the Department's web site.

"Anyone who eats, drinks milk, uses water, owns a pet, has a lawn or garden, educates children, plans family activities, or enjoys the scenic Massachusetts countryside is touched by the Department of Food and Agriculture," explains Kent Lage, DFA's chief of staff. "The well-being of all citizens depends on a secure food supply, healthy animals and sound environment."

The first person to be featured is Russell Davenport of Shelburne Falls, owner of the Davenport Maple Farm. He is currently chairman of the state Board of Agriculture.

"We felt that it was appropriate to feature Russ as the first 'Face' since he is the current chairman of the Board of Agriculture, a body in which the Department has its roots," says Lage. "Future 'faces' will include folks from all walks of life touched by the Department."

DFA is seeking photographs of people to be featured in the 150 Faces project. Project guidelines are available on-line at [www.mass.gov/dfa/150](http://www.mass.gov/dfa/150) or contact Diane Baedeker Petit at 617-626-1752, e-mail [Diane.Baedeker@state.ma.us](mailto:Diane.Baedeker@state.ma.us). ♦

## 2002 Federal Farm Bill Signed

President George W. Bush signed the 2002 Farm Bill on May 13, bringing to a close eight months of work to craft the bill. The key provisions of this farm bill, titled the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, include a national dairy program, increased funds for fruits, vegetable, and specialty crops, and considerable increases for environmental and open space protection programs.

"The unique characteristic of this farm bill is that some of the programs contained within it have their origins in Massachusetts and New England, and the National Dairy Program is a case in point." Commissioner Gillespie said. "This is essentially the same mechanism used by the Northeast Dairy Compact. The difference is that the Compact allowed the marketplace to drive the safety net instead of the government."

Under the National Dairy Market Loss Program farmers will receive 45 percent of the difference between \$16.94 and the Boston Class I price announced by the Federal Milk Market Order. The Farm Bill limits payments to 2.4 million pounds of milk per farm, the approximate equivalent of a 135-cow farm.

Producers interested in participating will need to enter into a contract which will offer payments retroactive to December 1, 2001. Payments will likely start late summer or early fall. The program will terminate September 30, 2005.

The Congress also included language for a program call the "Farm Viability Program" which is modeled on the Farm Viability Enhancement Program created by former Massachusetts Ag Commissioner Jay Healy and replicated by other states. While no funds are specifically earmarked for this program, the language does offer a starting point.

The Farm Bill dramatically increases funding for the Farmland Protection Program from \$53.4 million since the 1996 Farm Bill to \$985 million over the life of this farm bill, which is six years.

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act doubles annual spending on the Environmental Incentives Program (EQUIP) and increases the level of funding for fruits, vegetables, and specialty crops. It continues assistance to apple growers for continued low prices. The bill offers \$40 million a year to assist farmers with value-added business. ♦

## Massachusetts Bans Importation of Deer Precaution Taken To Prevent Chronic Wasting Disease

The Massachusetts Department of Fish and Wildlife has joined with other northeastern states to prohibit the importation of all species of deer. This is a precautionary measure to prevent the spread of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) into wild or farm-raised deer. The importation prohibition takes effect immediately and applies to European red deer, sika deer, fallow deer and reindeer, all species commonly raised commercially. The farming or importation of white-tailed deer, elk or moose was not permitted prior to the newly-enacted restrictions.

CWD has been diagnosed in wild deer populations and captive deer and elk herds in the West, Midwest and Canada. There are no known cases of the disease in Massachusetts.

CWD is a relatively new disease and is not fully understood. It is a brain disease related to Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy, also known as "Mad Cow Disease." CWD appears to be caused by an abnormal protein called a prion that occurs in the brain of affected deer. It can be spread by close contact between animals, and animals exposed to CWD-contaminated environments. Afflicted animals become gaunt, wasting away until death. There is no known transmission link of CWD from deer to humans.

For more information on CWD or the prohibition on importation of deer, contact Bill Woytek, 508-792-7270 x121 or Dr. Robert Deblinger 508-792-7270 x128. ♦

## Agro-Tech Update

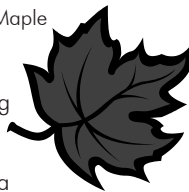
The Department's Agro-Environmental Technology Program provides matching grants up to \$50,000 to organizations and individuals for demonstration projects, feasibility analyses and applied research projects that address agriculture-related environmental concerns and stimulate development and viability in the food and agriculture industry. This year, six projects were funded totaling \$111,682 with an average award of \$18,644. Contracts were awarded to:

- ♦ New England Small Farm Institute, Belchertown - "Direct Cut Vacuum Grass Silage: An Economic and Environmental option for MA Livestock Producers" \$15,840
- ♦ University of Massachusetts, Amherst - "Commercial Soil-Less Production of Rhododendrons for Export Marketing" \$17,064
- ♦ Fins Technology, LLC, Turners Falls - "Development of Cost-Effective Water Reclamation System to Improve the Economics and Environmental Performance of Aquaculture" \$23,894
- ♦ Mass. Fruit Grower's Association, Shelburne - "Ribes Cultivar Screen for White Pine Blister Rust Disease Immunity and Documentation of Current Ribes Restrictions in New York and New England" \$1,820
- ♦ Cape Cod Cranberry Grower's Association, East Wareham - "Cranberry Bog Conversions Into a Partitioned Aquaculture System Fish Farm: Demonstration and Feasibility Testing" \$36,000
- ♦ Weston Cranberry Corporation, Carver - "Automated Weather and Watering Systems in Cranberry" \$17,064

Project descriptions are available on the DFA web site ([www.mass.gov/dfa](http://www.mass.gov/dfa)) or for more information contact program coordinator Susan Phinney at 617-626-1772, [Susan.Phinney@state.ma.us](mailto:Susan.Phinney@state.ma.us). ♦

## Maple News

by Tom McCrumm, Mass. Maple Producers Assoc.



The 2002 maple sugaring season finished about ten days early, just as it started. Despite fears of a poor production year due to a lack of snow, and warm, dry winter conditions, most Massachusetts producers reported an average or better than average crop. Some producers said they had their best year ever. Probably as a result of warm temperatures and the trees not being frozen, most all producers were gathering and boiling within a day or two of tapping, and just about everyone was making light or extra light amber syrup.

The main western regions of the state have reported an average to better-than-average crop, with an abundance of high quality, light syrup being made. Lower

elevations to the east reported more sporadic production results. Nearly everyone had better production than last year.

The Association summer picnic will be held Sunday, July 28th, hosted by President Jan Wentworth and husband Dale, who sugar in North Brookfield, Mass. Their small farm recently participated in the Department's Farm Viability Program. With this assistance they were able to build a fully approved commercial kitchen in which they make all sorts of maple confections for their retail and wholesale trade.

The summer picnic will include a tour of the new kitchen, instruction and demonstrations for making maple cream, and information on the Farm Viability Program. Information will also be presented on the Farm Stewardship Program, which may assist maple producers with obtaining permission to tap trees on state owned land, such as state parks and forests.

## NOFA/Mass Named by USDA to Certify Organic Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the first accredited entities that will certify organic production and handling operations to comply with National Organic Program (NOP) standards. The Northeast Organic Farming Association (NOFA) Massachusetts chapter is among the newly accredited organizations.

"I am happy to announce that NOFA/Mass was named as an accredited certifying agent," said Don Franczyk of NOFA/Mass. "Our last hurdle to full accreditation is a site evaluation which will occur in the next 120 days."

In Massachusetts, state Department of Food and Agriculture inspectors will perform inspections of farms as part of this program.

The new organic standards offer a national definition for the term "organic." It details the methods, practices and substances that can be used in producing and handling organic crops and livestock, as well as processed products. All qualified organic production and handling operations must be certified to use the USDA organic seal by October 21.

All agricultural products labeled organic must originate from farms or handling operations certified by a state or private agency accredited by USDA. Farms and handling operations that sell less than \$5,000 worth per year of organic agricultural products are exempt. For more information on the National Organic Program visit [www.ams.usda.gov/nop](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop). ♦

## NEVBGA Advertising Cost-Sharing Program

The New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association has received \$15,000 in funding for an advertising cost-sharing program from MDFA through USDA's Specialty Crop Grant Program. Growers may receive 50 percent of the cost of newspaper ads placed between June and October, with a maximum of \$500 per grower.

Applicants must be from Massachusetts and regular members of NEVBGA. Ads must feature the "Mass. grown...and fresher!" logo on at least 20 percent of the ad space and must be for Massachusetts grown fruits and vegetables.

For more information and a NEVBGA membership application, write NEVBGA, 233 Union St., East Bridgewater, MA 02333 or call 508-378-2546. ♦

## Farmers' Market Opportunities

The following farmers' markets are seeking vendors for the 2002 season. Please call the contacts below for more information. For general information, contact David Webber at 617-626-1754 or [David.Webber@state.ma.us](mailto:David.Webber@state.ma.us).

**Cambridge/Charles Sq:** Friday, 1:00 pm – 7:00 pm. Baked goods, prepared foods. Tim Garboski, 508-361-2832.

**Chicopee:** Tuesday, 11:00 am – 2:30 pm, Lorraine Norton, 413-612-0219

**Mansfield:** Thursday, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm. Fruit. Beth Flint, 508-339-7115.

**Mass. Turnpike Authority:** Thursday – Saturdays, 10:00 am – Dusk. Service centers on the Mass Pike, including Lee, Blandford, Ludlow, Charlton, Westboro, Framingham and Natick. All types of farm products. Dave Fenton, 781-431-5192.

**Melrose:** Thursday, 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Eggs, honey, cheese, jam, small vegetable/fruit. Sally Frank, 781-324-9648.

**North Adams:** Saturday, 8:00 am – 12:00 noon. Jams, jellies, produce and hand crafted items. Ron Bunt, 413-663-9204.

**Rosindale:** Saturday, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm. Vegetables and fruit. Tom Litke, 617-327-4065.

**Springfield/Eastfield Mall (new):** Thursday, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, opens in June. Betty Kibbe, 413-589-9576.

## Hilltown Community Market Seeks Growers

Attention growers, artisans, cooks, bakers, performers, and community groups! You are needed for the 2003 Spring/Summer Hilltown Community Market. The feasibility of a Community Market is being discussed to offer the hilltown community a place to gather, sample, and purchase local products, enjoy demonstrations and performances by local people, and food, food, food. The Outreach Committee of Hilltown CDC is seeking the names of interested vendors and participants. Let us know about yourself and what you would like to see in a Community Market. Contact Marge at 413-296-9900 x12 or at [margep@hilltowncdc.org](mailto:margep@hilltowncdc.org). ♦

## Receive the Farm & Market Report by E-mail!

Sign up to have the Farm & Market Report delivered to your e-mail box. Get the newsletter sooner and help us save tax dollars in the process. Send a message to [Diane.Baedeker@state.ma.us](mailto:Diane.Baedeker@state.ma.us) with your name, address and phone number

## How to Place a Classified Ad

Classified ads are accepted free-of charge on a first-come basis. Limit: 25 words. Be sure to include a phone number. No display ads will be accepted. Only one ad per business/individual per issue, unless space permits. Ads may run in consecutive issues, space permitting.

Ads must be of interest to Massachusetts farmers. The Mass. Dept. of Food and Agriculture reserves the right to refuse any listing it deems inappropriate for publication.

Send typewritten or neatly printed copy to: Farm & Market Report, Mass. Dept. of Food and Agriculture, 251 Causeway Street, Suite 500, Boston, MA 02114, 617-626-1752 fax: 617-626-1850, e-mail: [Diane.Baedeker@state.ma.us](mailto:Diane.Baedeker@state.ma.us)

## CLASSIFIED

For sale: corn silage, 1st cut hay, picked up or delivered. 413-323-7858.

Bee equipment: 100 new 10-frame 9 5/8" boxes w/ comb, \$25 each. 300 PT plywood bottom boards, \$5 each. 150 insulated PT lids, \$5 each. [Ricardo\\_berndt@yahoo.com](mailto:Ricardo_berndt@yahoo.com).

For sale: corn silage, also 4x5 round bales of hay, 413-436-5505.

Wanted: hay tedder or gear parts for Kuhn model 6F 45T-750353. 508-943-6520.

Farmstand Operators: as you prepare to open for the 2002 season, check out Empire Packaging's full line of bags, baskets, etc. Make Empire your packaging resource. 800-562-5520.

For sale: 8x10 walk-in cooler, older wood modular unit with compressor, motor and aluminum door. \$1500. 413-648-9659.

Farmhand wanted at charitable, educational farm located at the former Waltham Field Station. Call Oakes at 781-899-2403.

Two 50 HP Taco Dual Pole Pumps w/ Baldor Motors. Capacity 1,050 GPM. Great for irrigation, farm use. \$500 each. Both for \$900. 617-733-3756.

Nigerian Dwarf Dairy Goats; Old Mountain Farm. All Feb-born kids have been reserved but more does due to kid May-Oct! Over 23 yrs exp. raising healthy, friendly, beautiful milking/show quality NDs, blue & brown eyed. CAE tested & HES scored annually. Will bottle raise kids on request. Adult does & breeding bucks avail. Our wethers make wonderful pets! We enjoy helping others & meeting goat enthusiasts! 15 mins from Portsmouth, NH. Visit [www.oldmountainfarm.com](http://www.oldmountainfarm.com), email [olmfarm@gwi.net](mailto:olmfarm@gwi.net) or call 207-361-2126.

Farm for Rent: 50 tiestall pipeline dairy barn, 50 acres pasture, 60 acres hay land, heifer housing, machinery available. Quentin Antes, 413-369-8029.

EDCO Collaborative/MMEP provides summer school and English language classes for eligible farm workers and their children. Call 1-800-234-8848.

For Sale: Chrysler slant 6 motor, propane powered - set-up by Foley engines - Berkely irrigation pump 4" outlet. 7176 hours. Engine needs work (maybe head gasket), Pump works fine. Selling because we upgraded. A good value at \$200 or best offer. Pick up in Westford MA, or will deliver. 978-692-7752.

For sale: Cuke/Strawberry Picker. Wisconsin Engine. \$1295; McCormick Ground-Driven Manure Spreader \$795; 1-pt. hitch land plow \$195; 413-665-4826 evenings.

Sherwood Consultants now can provide technical expertise in the use of herbicides and fertilizers in addition to its usual business and financial farm services. Call: Woody Pratt at 617-232-8818 or E-mail to [shercons@aol.com](mailto:shercons@aol.com).

Piglets for sale: York cross. Ready to go May 1. Dover, MA 508-785-2818.

FOUR WOOD BARNs: Tobacco barn, 6 bent; 4 stall horse barn 26'x41'; tractor shed, 3 doors front and rear, 19'x32'; storage shed, 2 doors at each end, 17'x33'. Must remove. Make offer 860-627-5177.

Rural family with kids, livestock needed to model for professional photo project. Compensation up to \$4,000. 781-608-7656 or [jdckerner@netscape.net](mailto:jdckerner@netscape.net)

We will help Massachusetts farmers with a free help-wanted ad in The Caretaker Gazette. We have Massachusetts subscribers who want to work on your farm. Contact: THE Caretaker Gazette, PO Box 540, River Falls, WI 54022 (715) 426-5500, [www.caretaker.org](http://www.caretaker.org).

Subscribe to the New England Farm Bulletin. \$17/year includes 2 free farm classifieds or \$17 in free information booklets, monthly publication, annual almanac, New England fairs and farmers' market directory, monthly farm classifieds and features, access to rare farm topics and more! NEFB, Dept. MA, PO Box 67, Taunton, MA 02780.

## Farm & Market Report bi-monthly

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Brad Mitchell, Director, Regulatory Services

Diane Baedeker Petit, Editor, Farm & Market Report

This publication is available in alternate formats upon request.

## Class Action Settlement to Benefit Food and Nutrition Programs

Grants are available to charitable organizations that provide food and nutrition programs in Massachusetts as part of a settlement of a class action lawsuit brought on behalf of Massachusetts consumers who purchased certain Indirect Vitamin Products from January 1, 1990 through December 31, 1999. In return for the release of claims by members of the Settlement Class, the Settling Defendants have agreed to pay \$19,600,000 for the benefit of the Settlement Class, which funds (upon approval by the Court) shall be allocated to charitable organizations providing food and nutrition programs in Massachusetts. For more information and for grant instructions go to [www.massvitaminlitigation.com](http://www.massvitaminlitigation.com). The application deadline is June 30th. ♦

## calendar 2002

June 1 -- **6th Annual Swine Information Day and Pig Auction**, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm at the Deerfield Fairgrounds, Rt. 43, Deerfield, NH. Sponsored by the New Hampshire Pork Producer's Council. Free admission. Rain or shine. Handicap accessible. Pig auction at 1:00 pm. Educational events, discussion, pig roast, mini trade show. Out-of-state buyers: bring a blanket permit from your state agriculture department. Call Steve Corsetti, 603-768-5545 or Forrest Esenwine, 603-529-2758 or visit [www.NHPork.org](http://www.NHPork.org).

June 1 -- **Mass. Cultivated Blueberry Growers Association Spring Meeting**, 12:00 noon, at Town Line Farm, 202 West St., Plympton, MA. All commercial and amateur blueberry growers are invited to attend. Picnic lunch, educational program and farm tour. Call 508-378-2546 for more information.

June 5 -- **Christmas Tree Twilight Meeting**, 6:00 pm, Glen Gary Christmas Tree Farm, 539 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, MA, 413-786 1558.

June 12 -- **Christmas Tree Twilight Meeting**, 6:00 pm, Doe Orchards, 327 Ayer Rd (Rte 110 & 111), Harvard, MA, 978-772 4139.

June 15 -- **Music in the Orchard**, 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm at Nashoba Valley Winery, Bolton. A day of fun and relaxation for the whole family. Live music, winery tours and tastings. Call 978-779-5521 or visit [www.nashobawinery.com](http://www.nashobawinery.com).

June 19 -- **Christmas Tree Twilight Meeting**, 6:00 PM, Tree Berry Farm, Rte 123 (At Norwell line) Scituate, MA, 781-545 0659.

June 26 -- **Christmas Tree Twilight Meeting**, 6:00 pm, Nims Tree Farm, 114 Woodward Rd., Greenfield, MA, 413-772 6334.

June 29-30 -- **Strawberry Festival** at Berlin Orchards, 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. Hayrides, children's crafts, face painting, and music. Admission and parking are free; charge for food and activities. 200 Central St., Rte. 62, Berlin (exit 26 off Rte. 495). 978-838-0463, [www.berlinorchards.com](http://www.berlinorchards.com).

July 20 -- **11th Annual Open House at Tranquil Lake Nursery**, Rehoboth, MA, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Workshops on daylilies, perennials, herbs, cooking with daylilies and more. Call 508-252-4002 or visit [www.tranquil-lake.com](http://www.tranquil-lake.com).

August 8-11 -- **Summer Organic Conference**, sponsored by NOFA/Massachusetts, at Hampshire College, Amherst, Mass. Keynote speaker Joel Salatin. Education and fun for everyone. Call 978-355-2853, e-mail: [jackkitt@aol.com](mailto:jackkitt@aol.com), or visit [www.massorganic.org](http://www.massorganic.org).

## 2002 WGBH Auction Advantage

The WGBH auction is on June 2-8, 2002! All Massachusetts food business owners are invited to donate to Bay State Baskets - a unique marketing opportunity to showcase your products on television to more than a million viewers during the seven-day auction extravaganza. Last year, 60 local producers donated more than 5,000 food items, mail order coupons and gift certificates to fill 100 attractive baskets.

Be a proud member of the Bay State and support the WGBH educational foundation. For further details, contact Sarabeth Rogoff, acquisitions manager at the auction office at 617-300-4207 or e-mail at [sarabeth\\_rogoff@wgbh.org](mailto:sarabeth_rogoff@wgbh.org). ♦

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